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Item 82 of the preliminary list*
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 18 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on Zaire made on 10 April 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 82 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative
of the Netherlands to
the United Nations

* A/52/50.

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement on Zaire made on 10 April 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union

The European Union has learned with great concern of the latest political developments in Zaire. It calls upon all parties concerned in Kinshasa to show the necessary restraint and to respect the basic terms of the democratic transition process. The Union hopes that order in the capital will be maintained in a peaceful manner.

The Union calls upon all the parties to the conflict in Zaire to engage fully in the search for a speedy political solution and to refrain immediately from further violence. In this regard, the Union repeats its support for the peace plan of the joint United Nations/Organization of African Unity Special Representative for the Great Lakes region, Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun. The present developments underscore the importance of a political solution to the conflict. The Union reiterates its support for the process of democratic transition, leading towards elections, as the only road towards a peaceful and stable situation.

As fighting proceeds in different parts of the country, the Union appeals to all parties to respect the rights of the civilian population, to ensure the safety of foreign citizens and, if necessary, to facilitate their evacuation.

The European Union stresses the most urgent need for humanitarian assistance to reach refugees and displaced persons.